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<u>REMARKS</u>

The indication of allowable subject matter in claim 6 is acknowledged with

appreciation. By this amendment, the features of allowable claim 6 have been

incorporated into independent claim 1, and claim 6 has been canceled.

The rejection of claims 1, 4 and 5 is believed rendered moot by the

foregoing amendments.

In view of the foregoing, the application is respectfully submitted to be in

condition for allowance, and prompt, favorable action thereon is earnestly

solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in

general, a telephone call to the undersigned at (202) 624-2845 would be

appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all

concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as

a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and

please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit

Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #178/49984).

Respectfully submitted,

December 23, 2003

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